

## Looking to Molino

By Colin S. Collins

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"My dear friend, let the dead past bury its dead," urged the dictator gently. "Why should we give so great concern to the rifles of the wicked administration of that dog of a Molina?"

"Because they are not paid for and I'm here to get the coin," said Hartley Marvin with emphasis. "You can let the dead revolve on bury its dead—if your trumpety revolutions ever do have any dead—but those guns are still a live issue."

Director Balamo sighed gently. The day was warm, as was the argument. He disliked warmth of any sort, else he would have risen in his wrath, and cast this importunate collector from the palace door.

But to do that might involve some unpleasantness with the diplomats and Balamo well knew that the presence of a hostile gunboat in the harbor would be made the excuse for a revolution that would be personally unpleasant to himself.

"You yourself agree that you sold these rifles to that Molina," he reminded. "If this is so, would it not be as well to ask him the payment? Shall I give out of the treasure of the country to pay the private debts of a traitorous revolutionary?"

"You've got the guns, haven't you?" demanded Marvin brusquely.

"I have some guns," admitted Balamo diplomatically. "That they are our guns I do not know. When the country rose in its might against the extravagance of the president and made me dictator it was found that there were many fine rifles. With those we armed our troops. The guns are the spoils of war. If Molina did not pay for them, is it then my fault? It is to Molina that you should look for your money."

"And your friend Molina? Where is he?"

"Friend!" Balamo spat viciously at the word. "He is no friend, senator, as you well know. Where he is I know not, but there is justice in San Cristobal for all who come to the tribunal. I will give you a warrant for this Molina. Bring him to the bar of justice and there bring suit. You shall have ample justice."

In spite of his anger Marvin smiled. Molina, the departed ruler, was a fugitive in the forests.

"I think I'll accept that suggestion," agreed Marvin rising. "I suppose that you look on the guns as spoils of war, but it would be better to pay for them honestly instead of referring me to Molina."

"That is a threat?" asked Balamo. "Merely advice," was the lazy response. "I bid you good day, senator."

Marvin strode from the courtyard, where the interview had been held, and headed for the Plaza Cristobal, where the inhabitants of La Rosario were wont to congregate in a cafe.

To his surprise the cafe was crowded with strangers and they all were unmistakably from the States.

"Is there a steamer in?" demanded Marvin as he sank into a seat in a corner where he could have a table to himself.

"It is a circus," explained the waiter. "It is just arrived and the people, they are hungry and very thirsty, so they come to the best place to eat and drink."

"It seems to be mostly drink," declared Marvin with a laugh. "That I may be in the fashion, bring me a highball with lots of ice."

The waiter hurried away to give the order and Marvin was still wondering at the size of the party when a hand fell upon his shoulder and he turned to look into the face of a gigantic fellow. For a moment he stared wonderingly into the twinkling eyes, then with a shout he was on his feet and pounding the newcomer on the back.

"Joe Bardeen, by all that's great," he cried. "What good fortune brings you down here?"

"It looks more like bad fortune," said Bardeen seriously as he sank into a chair and pounded on the table to attract the attention of the waiter. "I'm the chaperon of this bunch of artistic talent."

"Your show?" asked Marvin. "How did you come to get in the show business? I thought that you were content to stick to horse-raising in Arizona."

"So I was," admitted Bardeen, "but a chap talked me into outfitting his Wild West Show, and then when the show did bad business I had to advance some more money to get a chance to be paid for what I had furnished. Well, things ran on until the first thing you know I owned the show and had to run it in the hope of getting out clear."

"Too much for the country," declared Marvin, and Bardeen nodded his approval of the opinion.

"He's brought his wares to a bad market here," said Marvin. "I'm down here trying to get some money for the guns that the last administration bought—before it became the administration."

Bardeen smiled. There had been a time when his adventurous nature had sought the excitement of Central and South America, and he knew the people.

"The old man is pretty good at collecting," he declared. "Let's call him over and have a talk. He's retired from business, and he travels with the show for the fun of it. That's

why we are staying out. If he stayed home and just looked over the balance sheet, he'd send for us mighty quick, but he's rather enjoyed the cruise, and so he sticks."

He rose from his chair and strode across the room to where an elderly man was entertaining two of the circus riders. There was a whispered consultation, and presently the two men came to Marvin's table.

After a whispered consultation the three men went inside of the exhibition tent and Marvin nodded approvingly at the huge space.

"You can show the entire town of La Rosario in this tent," he declared, laughingly. "To get a full house, even the barracks will have to be deserted."

"They ought to come as a matter of education," declared Bloodgood. "Bardeen's reproduction of the battle of Port Arthur that winds up the show is a lesson in warfare by modern methods."

"Advertise it as a war school in these revolutionary republics and the whole country will come," advised Marvin.

"I'm going to have an audience here that will include the whole town," declared Bloodgood. "I think I'll go and see the Dictator. Even he will not be able to resist a free box."

Bloodgood was right. The Dictator had the universal appreciation of the free pass, and when Bloodgood explained his plans, he found a ready adviser in the Dictator.

The following day the seats were packed to excess when the parade, which had halted outside, made entry upon the hippodrome tracks.

It was a splendid performance, and as it succeeded at the natives' eyes grew wider and wider with amazement. This was vastly different from anything ever seen before in La Rosario, and when at last the cowboys dashed into the arena and took possession of the rings, the excitement was unbounded. The natives appreciated good riding, and they were seeing the best.

Before the finale, Bloodgood took his stand in the central ring and explained that the entire force of the circus would give an accurate reproduction of the battle of Port Arthur.

At one side of the arena an inclined platform had been built to serve as 101 Meter Hill, and on this the Russians took their stand, while the Japs marched in and paraded around the hippodrome track before they gave battle.

They marched in open order and at a trumpet call they halted and faced forward. Bardeen stood beside the state box and now he leaned over Balamo's shoulder.

"Those guns are loaded with ball cartridges," he advised. "The two gatlings are fully manned. They can sweep the tent and in ten minutes wipe out the population of La Rosario five miles from town. Molina is in a jam ready to move on the city. He does not know that the place is unguarded, but one of our riders can make the trip in half an hour. You owe Mr. Marvin \$18,000 gold, for some rifles and big guns. You have advised him to see Molina about it. Is that all your advice?"

"This is a trap!" whispered Balamo. "If you will," assented Bardeen. "Marvin is a friend of mine, and I want to see him treated fairly. Your rearsure is here. Let him take some of our men to the treasury and convey the money to our steamer. After that we shall take our departure, and you shall be our hostage until we leave. If you refuse—well, Marvin will have to look to Molina, and Molina will be willing to pay—when he is restored to the presidency, Marvin has seen to that there is a collection fee of \$11,000 to be added to the other. Will you pay?"

With trembling hand, Balamo signed he order, and motioned the treasurer to accompany Marvin. They rumbled off with several eight-horse trucks and Bardeen explained to the audience that there had been a hitch in the performance and advised them to remain quietly in their seats.

The advice was not needed. The harpshooting had convinced them of the futility of matching their marksmanship against that of the cowboys, and the few who carried revolvers did not draw them.

The half hour that passed seemed like days, then Marvin and the treasurer returned. A file of men and one of the gatlings were sent off to protect the boat, and while the soldiers were massed under guard, the rest of the circus force hurriedly took down the tents and rushed them to the steamer. In four hours the loading was accomplished and the steamer, followed by the tug which constituted the San Cristobal navy, pulled out. They were some five miles from shore when Bardeen approached the dictator and his cabinet.

"We will put you aboard the tug now," he announced with a smile. "We have had a very eventful little birth day party, and we are very much obliged to you for your share in the festivities. You may return with the assurance that Molina has not usurped your seat. As a matter of fact, we could not locate him, else we should have put him in your place as a lesson to other dictators."

"It was all a lie?" asked Balamo, stammering in his rage.

"It was a birthday party," corrected Bardeen, "and a most successful one at that. Good day, senator. Next time meet your debts—do not refer them to Molina."

Bardeen watched the tug as she turned and steamed toward the shore, then with a laugh he turned to Bloodgood.

"There's one town that paid a bright on this tour," he declared with a laugh. "To say nothing of giving you a birthday party without an equal."

## HERE IS KIMONO WRAP

BIDS FAIR TO BE EXTREMELY POPULAR FOR OUTDOOR WEAR.

Idea Comes From Paris, and Has Been Taken Up by Leaders of Fashion in America—Shown in Tan Eponge.

The Kimono wrap is the latest edict for outdoor wear, made by the Parisian fashion arbiters. It has already been taken up by the fashionable New York establishments and bids fair to be a popular spring and fall garment.

The model shown is of tan eponge, cut kimono style, and caught by one button on the left side. Around the sleeves are three rows of drawn work, an inch wide and about three inches apart, headed by a narrow track. Four rows of the same work are used on the



Photo, Copyright, by Underwood & Underwood, N. Y.

skirt of the wrap, at knee length. The sleeves and bottom of the garment are finished with a narrow hem beneath which is used a foot deep frize of soft twisted rope cord, the ends knotted to form tassels. A narrow collar and triangular revers of embroidery in varicolored oriental designs and above narrow revers of black satin.

The hat is black millan, faced with black velvet and with long trimming of white gull's feathers across the back.

## CHILDISH MODES ARE SIMPLE

One Very Good Idea That Continues to Mark the Fashions of the Present Season.

Just at the present season of the year our thoughts turn naturally towards the little people and their requirements.

Luckily for the young people of today, simplicity is the keynote of their fashions also, and the new coat and skirt costumes for schoolgirls continue to be made in serge or tweed with no trimming at all, beyond a little braiding perhaps on the coats. The skirts are sometimes slightly gores and finished with several rows of tailor-stitching at the hem, but they are more often arranged with a broad plait in front and another at the back, and a group of single plaits on either side, stitched down flatly for some little distance below the waist.

The coats for schoolgirls' costumes are of the simplest possible kind, double-breasted, and fastened with dark pearl or bone buttons. With these coats and skirts blouses in fine French flannel are generally worn, with something bright in the way of a knitted silk cravat and a patent leather belt to match.

Those who prefer the full length coats have plenty of variety from which to choose in navy serge and in rough pilot cloth, in tweeds and in leather mixtures. Then, again, there are those fashionable blanket cloths, with the reverse side in some contrasting color, which can be used not only for the lining, but also for the collars, cuffs and pocket flaps.

## For the Tea Table.

Small sugar cutters, which are really scissor shaped tongs, are a great help to the hostess at afternoon tea, for it is a difficult matter to select a lump of sugar which is the proper size. The little cutters may be used in place of the ordinary sugar tongs as well as for cutting the lumps into halves or quarters.

## Veils Match Hats.

Veils—the color of the hats or their trimmings are being worn. It is quite correct to wear a purple veil, for instance, with a hat of this color or one having even a touch of purple upon it.

Penned in a trench by dirt and stone which caved in upon him while he and a fellow laborer were at work, Daniel Smith an employee of a Maiden, Mass. gas company was slowly baked to death by flaming illuminating gas last night. His companion, William F. McLaughlin, was blown from the trench by an explosion, and so seriously burned that he may not recover. To keep the imprisoned men from breathing the poisoned air, a piece of garden hose was placed in his mouth and the other end run into the clearer atmosphere. In this manner rescuers were able to keep him alive for more than an hour, while they work to extricate him. Nine firemen were overcome by the fumes.

## CLASSIFIED ADS.

### SPECIAL NOTICE.

A dividend of Three Dollars per share will be paid to the stockholders of the Alexandria Water Company on and after Wednesday, May 15th, 1912. Checks will be mailed stockholders.

By order of the Board of Directors, GEORGE UHLER, Secretary and Treasurer.

### OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF GAS.

City Hall, April 29, 1912. SEALED PROPOSALS addressed to John T. Harrison, Chairman of the Committee on Light, will be received at this office until 8 p. m. WEDNESDAY, MAY 15th, 1912, for the ENTIRE OUTPUT OF COAL GAS TARIFF of the City Gas Works during the next fiscal year, commencing June 1, 1912 and ending May 31, 1913. Bidders must agree to keep the gas in the well all the time below the outlet or overflow pipe. Terms: Settlement must be made on or before the 15th of the month following delivery of gas.

The successful bidder must enter into contract with the Committee on Light or faithful compliance with the above provisions. The committee reserves the right to reject any and all bids. By order of the Committee on Light J. B. WALLER, Clerk.

April 29th

### OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF GAS.

City Hall, March 1, 1912. SEALED PROPOSALS will be received at this office addressed to John T. Harrison, Chairman of the Committee on Light, until 3 p. m. WEDNESDAY, MAY 15th, 1912, for furnishing the Gas Works with four thousand tons, more or less, of gas coal (2340 pounds to the ton) to be delivered in the sheds at the Gas Works, trimmed and benched up during the fiscal year commencing June 1, 1912 and ending May 31, 1913. Bidders are requested to give candid proposals, and to state the price per ton, and yield and analysis per ton coal. The Committee reserves the right to reject any and all bids. Terms: Cash on 15th day of each month, following the delivery of coal. By order of Committee on Light, J. B. WALLER, Clerk of Gas.

April 29th

## WANTED.

WANTED: A HUSTLING AGENT IN EACH LOCALITY, to write Head and Accident Insurance. Also furnish 250. Natural Death Benefit in combination policy. We insure men, women as well as men. The right man can earn good immediate money, \$5 to \$200 a month. Previous insurance experience not necessary for this proposition. Write to DR. R. A. GAMBLE, Petersburg, Virginia. M2-2w

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WASHINGTON, D. C.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF FAIRFAX, VA.

THE NORTH MT. VERNON LAND COMPANY, INC., vs. EUGENE A. THOMPSON, ET AL. In Chancery.

To The North Mt. Vernon Land Company, Inc., E. A. Thompson and Frederick D. Russell, Trustees, Daniel T. Thompson, James R. Hunter, George Simmons and J. M. Saunders, Trustees, George W. Turnbuckle and Brainerd H. Warner.

TAKE NOTICE: That I will on the 1st day of May, A. D. 1912, at my office, No. 107 No. Fairfax street, in the City of Alexandria, Virginia, at ten o'clock a. m. proceed to execute the decree rendered in this cause on the 5th day of April, A. D. 1912, wherein I was directed, as Special Commissioner in Chancery, to report as follows:

Whether or not the Complaint is entitled to the relief prayed for in the Bill of Complaint. Whether or not the "purchase price," referred to in the "releasing clauses" in the two deeds of trust, one from the Complainant to secure James R. Hunter, and the other to secure Daniel D. Thompson, certain monies, and which trusts are made a part of the Bill in this cause, had reference to the entire purchase price, both cash and deferred; and whether or not the words "purchase price" related solely to the deferred purchase price.

In ascertaining the facts above, the said Commissioner shall take the depositions of any and all witnesses presented before him, either by Complainant or Defendant, or upon his own motion, all of which shall be made a part of his report. Said Commissioner shall also report with his findings herein, the law of this case, and any such other matter or thing as any party in interest may demand or that he may deem pertinent.

Given under my hand, this 9th day of May, A. D. 1912.

HAYWARD W. SMITH, Special Commissioner.

May 9-104

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